



# The Arboretum Bulletin



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## *Christmas Greens*

BY LIDIE H. BALMER

OUR Northwest gardens offer fascinating material and combinations for holiday decoration. Native fir and cedar provide excellent foundation for sprays and wreaths, while cuttings from choice border evergreens and winter-berried shrubs add brilliant color and interesting texture.

A wreath may be quite as pleasant to make as to possess. Since advance preparations are important, you should assemble a good firm wire ring about two inches in diameter, a spool of soft wire or fine stout green string, a bushel basket of pliable four or five inch cuttings of any desired evergreen, and clustered berries or cones for accent.

Group generously, bind tightly, use your imagination and the task should be fun, the result delightful.

For a novel and easily made wreath try this method. Cut out of cardboard a circle some two inches wide and ten or twelve inches in diameter. With a coarse needle and thread or a clip, fasten small broad-leaved evergreen leaves, bay, Portuguese laurel, or camellia—clover style to this background, letting leaves always overlap stems and move always in one direction. For extra holiday effect the leaf edges may have been brushed with gilt or silver. Fruit and berries may be wired and attached to this foundation Della Robbia fashion, or small cones or cone flowers be used instead.

For an easily arranged mantle or table piece, take a good big handful of soft fir branches eight inches long. Holding them firmly wrap them round and round with green twine or heavy thread making a compact oblong fir pillow. Into this thrust long graceful sprays of evergreen, letting the length be determined by the space you plan to decorate—add short full sprays working from both ends to the center, varying the lengths and accenting the whole with especially lovely material until a full, soft and graceful spray has been attained.

Holly, both green and variegated with heavily berried sprays for accent, may be used and equally pleasing may be any of our fine grey or golden-toned evergreens.

The golden tones are beautifully accented with yellow holly berries, green acuba berries, and small russet cones. Pine alone, decorated with clusters of cones—frosted or plain, may well grace your Christmas mantle while the grey-toned *retinospora plumosa* welcomes the accent of silver or blue tree balls.

If no artificial material is used these sprays may be kept fresh all during the holidays by an occasional immersion in deep water. A piece of waxed paper will adequately protect a surface which might otherwise be marred.

Any rugged interesting branch may form the foundation

## *The Monkey Puzzle in the Puget Sound Region*

BY FRED G. MEYER

**A**RAUCARIA IMBRICATA, the Monkey Puzzle tree as it is more commonly known, always causes interest among visitors to this region. Those who have seen it agree that it is both noble and truly unique.

The species is indigenous to the southern Andes mountains between the boundary of Chile and Argentina, where it assumes giant proportions. According to L. H. Bailey in his *Encyclopedia of Horticulture*, the seeds furnish the principal source of food for natives in that region.

As an ornament, *A. imbricata* has been used in the Puget Sound region for a number of years as a specimen on lawns. From estimates by old settlers of the area, the first plantings go back about forty years. In consideration of this long period, one might expect to find occasional cone bearing trees, but either because both male and female specimens are not usually found together, or because our climate is not altogether suited to the species, cones are only rarely produced. It was after finding such a cone-bearing specimen this past summer that the author was prompted to write this short note concerning the discovery of it.

The single, cone-bearing tree was found on a private estate along southern Puget Sound about six miles west of Olympia, Washington. The cones were permitted to mature and were then examined for viable seeds. However, none was found, a condition which must be due either to improper fertilization or to a complete absence of available, viable pollen. According to the literature, nearly all species of *Araucaria* produce pollen and ovaries on separate plants, and in view of the fact that no other Monkey Puzzle is known within several miles of where the cone-bearing specimen grows, the problem arises as to just why the cones reached their mature size without producing mature seeds. Perhaps this particular tree is one of the rare, monoecious forms which is self-fertile to only a certain degree.

The cones themselves were beautifully formed, being from six to eight inches in diameter and equally as tall. They were borne on the top few limbs of the 25 foot tree and stood erect upon the stiff, spreading branches. Several cones were collected for study, and it is hoped that in the future other cone-bearing trees which produce mature seed will be found.

for a Christmas charm string. Additional evergreen sprays, cones, copper bells, and bronze or golden ribbon may be used to complete this perpendicular line, bearing always in mind that a few charmingly related materials offer greatest interest.

## Vegetable Garden Notes

From Victoria

(Editor's Note: Reports from a number of trial vegetable gardens are now appearing and we think it would be wise for our gardeners to become acquainted with the important details of the reports while the results of their own vegetable gardening are still fresh in their minds. We suggest that the following notes be filed where they will be readily available for use at the time that seeds are being purchased for next season's vegetable garden.)

THE following notes are a summary of the talk on "Varieties of Vegetables" given by Mr. W. H. Warren, president, Victoria Horticultural Society, at its last meeting, and are taken from the November, 1942, issue of the Society's "Garden Notes."

"What variety do you grow?" is what we all ask when admiring the neighbor's vegetable crop. Veteran gardeners stick to tried and proven varieties. Novices usually try anything and everything. The rank and file of gardeners stand between the two. Unscrupulous firms are ever ready to capitalize on the beginner's gullibility with worthless novelties, profusely described in their catalogues, often renamed year after year. Last spring local novices bought a "potato tomato" under the impression that it bore both potatoes and tomatoes. It proved to be quite worthless, a poor quality late maturing tomato with potato-like foliage. While fully appreciating the merits of many standard varieties of vegetables, there have been introduced many new varieties, the work of years of breeding and selection, which are definitely superior to standard sorts in one or more respects. They at least deserve a trial. Varieties with superior quality and flavor should be the first consideration of the home grower, for such varieties are often of a more perishable nature and are seldom seen in the market places.

Generally speaking Great Britain has produced many varieties of superior quality vegetables. There have also been produced in Canada and the United States in recent years many selections of vegetables for specific purposes, such as for canning use, shipping quality, disease resistance, earliness, etc. The following constitutes a list of superior varieties recommended by various authorities.

### BEANS

- Green Dwarf Bush**..... Bountiful, earliest, quality fair. Tendergreen, second early. Stringless Greenpod. Stringless Black Valentine.
- Waxpod Dwarf Bush**..... Pencil Pod Black Wax, very good quality. These last two are good for early sowing. Seed won't rot in cold soil.
- Climbing Bean**..... Kentucky Wonder and Scarlet Runner, Sutton's Prizetaker, and Ritchie's Best of All.
- Broad Bean**..... Seville Long Pod for fall or winter planting. Broad Windsor and Hatfield Wonder for spring planting.

### BEETS

- Crosby's Egyptian**..... Early, used in successive plantings. Dupuy and Ferguson's Improved Dark Red and Brand's Exhibition are two good show types. Try **Spinach Beet** for greens. We think it's superior to Swiss Chard.

### BROCCOLI

- Sprouting**..... Italian green for fall use and Purple sprouting for early spring.

### BRUSSELS SPROUTS

- Long Island** and Brand's **Lulu Island**.

### CABBAGE

- Golden Acre**..... Good flavor, small head, early. Fall sown for spring use. Successive sowings for summer and fall use. Savoy for fall use.

### CARROTS

Try **Early Nantes**, **Touchon**, **Tendersweet** and **Imperator** in successive sowings from June 1, to September 1.

### CAULIFLOWER

- Snowball**..... For spring use, and cauliflower-headed broccoli for late fall and winter use. (Cauliflower which matures about Christmas or later is called Broccoli.)

### CELERY

- Utah**..... Must be well grown.

### CORN

- Dorinny**..... Seven to ten days earlier than Golden Bantam. Gold Bantam about same season as Golden Bantam, 4 ft. to 5 ft., yields well, ears eight-rowed, small, quality unsurpassed, originated locally by Mr. H. E. Hallwright. Well worth a trial.

### LETTUCE

- Leaf**..... Cos and Grand Rapids for summer use, Prizehead and Early Curled Simpson for spring use.
- Head**..... Imperial 44, best all season, N. Y. 12 and N. Y. B., also recommended for spring use. In Britain certain hardy fall sown varieties are grown. These have not been thoroughly proven locally. They are Arctic King, Winter Density, Stanstead Park, and Sutton's All Year Round. In addition there are a number of high quality small headed types such as Creamy Heart, Wayahead, and May King which thrive when sown early in cold soil; also Mignonette, Cosberg and Crisp as Ice. Sow a 3 foot row only, at two week intervals.

### MUSKMELON

**Emerald Gem**, **Delicious**, **Extra Early Osage**.

### PEAS

- Round Seeded**..... Are hardy, early, but poorly flavored.
- Wrinkled Seeded**..... Crosland Brothers seed growers of Duncan named their three best as follows: Sutton's Foremost—3½ feet, earliest pea; Evergreen—4 feet, finest flavored; Phenomenon—2 feet, a good dwarf.
- Early**..... Selected by authorities are: Mammoth Podded Extra Early, Laxton's Progress, Hundredfold, Hatfield Wonder.
- Mid-Season**..... Giant Stride, Midseason Giant, Wyoming Wonder, Gilbo.
- Late**..... Alderman, Duke of Albany.

### PEPPER

**California Wonder**.

### POTATOES

- Early**..... Try Warba and Chippewa.

### SPINACH

- Long Standing Savoy**..... Large wrinkled leaf, Viroflay, hardy smooth-leaved type.

### SQUASH

- Bush**..... Vegetable Marrow, Summer Straightneck, Zucchini and Coccinelle. Last two cooked whole when six to eight inches long.
- Vine**..... For use up to Christmas. Acorn or Table Queen, Delicata.
- Winter**..... Kitchenette and Golden Delicious supersedes Hubbard for quality. Buttercup, Green Gold. Others which might be tried are Delicious, Banana, and Boston Marrow.

### TOMATOES

- Scarlet Dawn**..... (Non-acid), Stokesdale, medium acidity; Bounty, heavy yielding, acid flavor.

### WATERMELON

**Northern Sweet**.

## Fall Care of Gardens

Prepared By DR. JOHN SNYDER, *Extension Horticulturist*  
October 27, 1942.

MOST of the garden crops have been harvested. This does not mean that the garden may be forgotten until planting time in the Spring. In fact, the care that can be given this fall will have much to do with the crop to be harvested next year. Let us consider some of the things to do in caring for the garden this fall.

Rotating garden crops is desirable when it can be done conveniently. For example, it is better to plant corn next year where beans grew this year when this is possible. Likewise, potatoes may follow peas. Rotating the crops in this way helps to supply them with needed fertilizer elements and sometimes helps to reduce injuries from insects and diseases.

Now that the tomato vines, squash vines and other tender plants have been frosted down there is considerable litter on the garden. This material, if worked into the soil, adds organic material and some fertility. It, therefore, should be chopped up so that it can be mixed with the soil. The addition of a little nitrogen either in the form of the same kind of farmyard manure or commercial fertilizer will aid in the decomposition of this vegetation.

If this material has been chopped up the garden may be plowed or spaded. If there is manure available, fertilizing may be done before plowing. In the event that there is not fertilizer enough to cover the entire garden at this time, part of it may be fertilized now and the balance fertilized after plowing as the manure becomes available.

After the garden is spaded a cover crop of rye and vetch or wheat and vetch or wheat or rye alone may be sown. It is a little late to sow a cover crop now but if it has not been done it is better now than never. If, for some reason, it is impossible to sow a cover crop the plowed ground may be left rough.

A garden plowed or spaded in the fall will be in good condition for sowing early crops such as spinach, lettuce, radishes and peas next spring. That part of the garden in which these crops are to be sown need not be replowed in the spring. It can be leveled off and a seed bed prepared by hoeing and raking it. Having part of the garden suitable for very early planting is particularly desirable in areas where the moisture supply is limited. This is particularly true in Central and Eastern Washington where irrigation is not practiced. By having the ground suitable for early planting the length of the period during which vegetables may be obtained from the garden is greatly increased and the actual value of the garden is also increased.

It can be seen from these statements that the successful gardener does not garden as a result of just when the garden fever is at its peak in the spring. He plans his operations and carries them on throughout the year. By so doing he keeps his soil in good condition so that vegetables can grow quickly as soon as they are planted.

## An Important Thought on Gardening

IN SOME recent correspondence directed to us by Mr. W. H. Warren, Superintendent of Parks at Victoria, mention was made of some important ideas which relate to the efficient operation of a vegetable garden. To quote:

"I would like to add that I think the proper utility of ground in Victoria Gardens needs to be emphasized, i. e., successive and companion cropping, sowing small amounts at frequent intervals to prevent feasts and famines of garden produce throughout the season."

## A Valuable Book for All Northwest Gardeners

THE coming publication of a book on trees and shrubs by Mr. John A. Grant, well known garden authority, comes as a boon not only to gardeners but to all home owners as well. Here for the first time is a book which deals primarily with plant material which can be grown successfully in the Pacific Northwest.

Too often in the past many of us have purchased lovely books in search of such information only to find that they dealt with conditions far different from our own or condemned many fine things as not hardy which in fact can easily be grown here. Such books contained little real help in determining the character of the plants mentioned or the conditions under which they could best be grown.

This book, however, is planned to be a practical and comprehensive hand book which covers the best plants for this climate, many of which are new to some gardeners. It tells their character, their native habitat, the requirements of soil, sun or shade, hardiness, their leaf coloring, how to prune, fertilize, what to do each month and many other facts which the amateur often seeks.

Whether your garden is in the moist coastal area of Washington or Oregon, in the rain shadow of the Olympics or the Columbia River Basin, here is information which will help in the selection of plants, suitable locations and types of planting around which to develop your garden design. It is written in non-technical language yet is scientifically accurate. With the constant need of garden consultation any one chapter will more than repay the cost of the book.

The Dogwood Press, which is well known for its artistry and craftsmanship, has done an outstanding job in illustrations, cover and general makeup. As a Christmas gift this book is an ideal solution for many people.

Because of the outstanding merit of the publication the Arboretum Foundation has taken over the distribution of the first edition which is limited to 2,000 copies. These can be obtained at the Foundation office or through your Arboretum unit or garden club chairman. Copies are \$3.50 plus sales tax and postage, a total of \$3.65. The foundation receives a percentage of the sales which will be used for arboretum maintenance. Arrangements will be made for autographing copies when desired. We suggest you place your order immediately as the edition is limited.

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## A Stem Canker of Dogwood and Madrona

D. E. STUNTZ and C. E. SELISKAR

WITHIN the last few years trees of Pacific Dogwood, *Cornus nuttallii* Aud. and madrona, *Arbutus menziesii* Pursh. in and around Seattle have been affected in increasing numbers with a disease which produces a girdling canker on the stem, and eventually kills the tree. In the late summer of 1941 a number of dead and dying trees in the Laurelhurst district of Seattle were brought to our attention by Dr. J. H. Hanley, and we then decided to undertake a study of the disease.

The first symptoms commonly noted on dogwood and madrona are browning and thinning of the leaves in the uppermost crown. These leaves may be abnormally small, chlorotic or bronzed, and curled at the edges. The direct cause of the above condition is a canker, usually found at the base of the stem, less frequently farther up, centering around a branch stub or a crotch. Cankers on madrona are readily discernible because of the dark surface discoloration which is in

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